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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

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* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

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Overall orientation

8.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolution 55/279, by which the Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels in May 2001, and 56/227, whereby the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report of 23 November 2001 (A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2).

8.2 The mandate of the programme covers four main elements:

(a) Mobilization and coordination of international support for the effective implementation of: (i) the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010; (ii) the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries; and (iii) the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(b) Enhanced monitoring and follow-up to the three Programmes of Action;

(c) Advocacy and promotion of global awareness with respect to the three groups of countries (least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States);

(d) Reporting at the global level on the implementation of the Brussels and Almaty Programmes of Action as effective tools for reaching the international development goals for the concerned countries.

8.3 In this context, the programme will also contribute to the implementation of the relevant and related internationally agreed development goals concerning the three groups of countries, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. It will mobilize international support in favour of its constituencies in the areas of capacity-building and increased technical and financial resources in promoting sustained growth and sustainable development. Gender is an important dimension in the implementation of the three Programmes of Action.

8.4 The overall programme of work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.

8.5 With a view to addressing the objectives in each of the three main areas of endeavour, the Office of the High Representative will use a combination of the following approaches and strategies:

(a) Advocating that the concerns of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States be placed high on the global agenda in respect of the Brussels and Almaty Programmes of Action as well

as the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(b) Mobilizing international support and resources in favour of the three groups of countries;

(c) Providing monitoring and follow-up to foster supportive policies in the three groups of countries and their development partners;

(d) Working with the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the regional organizations, the donor community and civil society, to ensure proper mainstreaming of priorities identified in each of the three Programmes of Action;

(e) Monitoring of all seven specific commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action: (i) fostering a people-centred policy framework; (ii) good governance at the national and international levels; (iii) building human and institutional capacities; (iv) building capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries; (v) enhancing the role of trade in development; (vi) reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment; and (vii) mobilizing financial resources;

(f) Supporting the effective participation of the least developed countries in intergovernmental processes;

(g) Building partnerships towards the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action by establishing coordinating mechanisms for its implementation at the national, subregional and global levels;

(h) Monitoring and coordinating implementation of specific actions and initiatives aimed at establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(i) Promoting South-South cooperation in various areas for the benefit of the countries of the three groups;

(j) Reaching out to all stakeholders, including partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Objective of the Organization: To improve the quality of lives of people in the least developed countries by strengthening their ability to build a better future for themselves and to develop their countries.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Continued commitments to the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action	(a) (i) Number of declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels in favour of the least developed countries
	(ii) Effective participation of the least developed countries in decision-making in various intergovernmental bodies

(b) Increased international resources in support of the objectives, goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action	(b) Increased flow of external resources, debt relief and trade preferences to the least developed countries
(c) Enhanced coordination with United Nations entities and other international and multilateral organizations to ensure integrated follow-up and implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels	(c) (i) Increased number of United Nations entities and other international and multilateral organizations that mainstream and report on the Brussels Programme of Action to their respective governing bodies
	(ii) Increased number of national mechanisms for the follow-up and implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action
	(iii) Increased number of national reports on the implementation of the Brussels Programme with the support of the United Nations resident coordinators system
	(iv) Increased number of joint activities, including task forces, workshops, seminars, panels, briefings and publications

Strategy

8.6 In order to achieve the foregoing objective, the strategy of the Least Developed Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Raising awareness about the special needs of the least developed countries and advocating in favour of this group of countries;

(b) Mobilizing international support and resources in support of the objectives, goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action;

(c) Promoting mainstreaming of the Brussels Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners in their development policies, strategies and programmes;

(d) Strengthening United Nations system coordination and building partnerships in support of the objectives, goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action;

(e) Building capacity of the least developed countries for the effective follow-up to, and implementation of, the Brussels Programme of Action at the country level and participation in the annual review of the Economic and Social Council;

(f) Undertaking outreach activities to all relevant stakeholders of the process.

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

Objective of the Organization: To ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Timely and enhanced implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action to establish efficient transit transport systems and reduce trade transaction costs	(a) Increased number of specific actions, such as standardization and simplification procedures for border crossing, taken by United Nations organizations as well as transit developing countries and donor countries
(b) Increased international resources in support of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries	(b) Increased flow of official development assistance, private investment and debt relief

Strategy

8.7 In order to achieve the foregoing objective, the strategy of the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Supporting the building of partnerships towards the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action by establishing coordinating mechanisms for its implementation at the national, subregional and global levels;

(b) Improving linkages between other parts of the United Nations system and focal points in individual organizations and the relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations and enhancing the cooperation and coordination of the United Nations system with them, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(c) Monitoring and coordinating implementation of specific actions and initiatives aimed at establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(d) Advocating and mobilizing support, including financial and technical resources, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Objective of the Organization: To effectively advocate and mobilize international support for the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased international support for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	(a) Increased number of United Nations and other international organizations and donors according special focus to small island developing States issues
(b) Enhanced inter-agency collaboration and partnerships in support of the small island developing States	(b) Increased number of joint programmes and activities, including seminars, panels, briefings and publications

Strategy

8.8 In order to achieve the foregoing objective, the strategy of the Small Island Developing States Unit will focus on:

(a) Promoting awareness about the issues, priorities and special needs of small island developing States through consistent advocacy at the global and regional levels;

(b) Mobilizing international support at the global level by identifying sources of financing and garnering donor support for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

General Assembly resolutions

55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
57/276	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
58/228	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

59/244	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
60/228	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2002/33	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2003/17	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2004/65	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2005/44	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic and Social Council decisions

2001/320	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

General Assembly resolutions

56/180	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries
58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
59/245	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
60/208	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

General Assembly resolutions

56/198	Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
57/262	Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
58/213 A and B	Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
59/311	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States